

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. A process for the preparation of 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazolediammonium salts, wherein oxalimidic acid dihydrazide is reacted with sodium nitrite in the presence of an acidic substance while maintaining the pH of the reaction solution in a range of from 4 to 6 to form 5,5'- bi-1H-tetrazole through the formation of an azide thereof, and the 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazole is converted into 5,5'-bi-1H- tetrazoledisodium salt by the addition of sodium hydroxide, the 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazoledisodium salt is further reacted with ammonium chloride or an aqueous solution thereof, and a formed ammonium salt is recovered as sparingly soluble crystals.

2. A preparation process according to claim 1, wherein there is added a weakly acidic compound having a pKa of 3 to 5, such as formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, octanoic acid or citric acid.

3. A preparation process according to claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution of sodium nitrite is dropwisely added at -10 to 30°C, an azide thereof is formed and a cyclization reaction is conducted at 10 to 70°C for 1 to 7 hours.

4. A preparation process according to claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide is added to said reaction solution, and the reaction is conducted at 20 to 90°C for 1 to 5

hours to synthesize a 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazoledisodium salt.

5. A preparation process according to claim 1, wherein ammonium chloride or an aqueous solution thereof is added to said reaction solution at 30 to 90°C, and the reaction is conducted at 50 to 90°C for 1 to 3 hours to synthesize a 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazoledisodium salt.

6. A preparation process according to claim 1, wherein a weakly acidic compound is so added that a molar ratio (B/A) of the weakly acidic compound (B) to the oxaldiimidic acid dihydrazide (A) is from 2.0 to 4.0.

7. (Currently amended) A preparation process according to claim 1, wherein the sodium nitrite is so added that a molar ratio (C/A) of the sodium nitrite ~~(B)~~ (C) to the oxaldiimidic acid dihydrazide (A) is from 2.0 to 4.0.

8. (Currently amended) A preparation process according to claim 1, wherein the sodium hydroxide is so added that a molar ratio (D/A) of the sodium hydroxide ~~(B)~~ (D) to the oxaldiimidic acid dihydrazide (A) is from 2.0 to 3.5.

9. (Currently amended) A preparation process according to claim 1, wherein the ammonium chloride is so added that a molar ratio (E/A) of the ammonium chloride ~~(B)~~ (E) to the oxaldiimidic acid dihydrazide (A) is from 2.0 to 3.5.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the oxaldiimidic acid dihydrazide is prepared from dicyan and hydrazine hydrate of an amount larger than a stoichiometric ratio thereof to the dicyan.

15. (New) the process according to claim 10, wherein the reaction of dicyan and hydrazine hydrate is conducted at -10 to 50°C for 2 to 30 hours and, after the reaction, the precipitated crystals are separated.

16. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein the reaction of dicyan to hydrazine hydrate is conducted at a molar ratio (G/F) of the hydrazine hydrate (G) to the dicyan (F) of from 2.5 to 3.5.

17. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein a polar solvent such as water, alcohol, or a mixed solvent thereof is used as the reaction solvent.